

LOVELL et al
Appl. No. 10/535,333
February 12, 2009

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter (claims 2-4, 10, 14-28, 30-33, 35, 36 and 39).

Claim 1 has been revised to include the limitation of now cancelled claim 2. With this revision, claim 1 is believed to be in allowable form. Claim 5 has been revised to include limitations of now cancelled claims 6-10 and, with this revision, is also believed to be in allowable form. In this regard, it is noted that claim 19 has been indicated as being allowable, which claim includes subject matter from claims 5 to 9. The dependencies of claims 3, 11 and 15 have been amended.

New claims 40 and 41 have been added. Claim 40 essentially corresponds with claim 5 as now presented but specifies:

- i) the cross-linkable resin composition is a latex (for support, see final paragraph on page 7);
- ii) both the vinyl sulfonyl precursor groups and the nucleophilic groups are attached to the polymer chain (for support, see final paragraph on page 3 and note this is a further limitation beyond the requirement of claim 5 which only requires one or other of the precursor and nucleophilic groups be attached to the chain); and
- iii) the nucleophilic groups are of formula (IIa) which is similar to formula (II) in amended claim 5 but specifies that X is a hydroxyl group (for support, see page 5, second paragraph).

New claim 41 finds support at the bottom of page 5 (see also claim 20).

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The non-elected claims have been cancelled without prejudice.

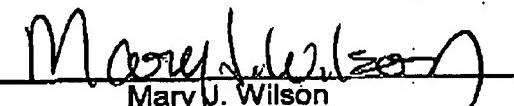
Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tashlick et al. Claims 5-9, 11-13, 29 and 34 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Hamilton et al. Withdrawal of both rejections is believed to be in order in view of the above-noted claim revisions. Reconsideration is requested.

This application is submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Mary J. Wilson
Reg. No. 32,955

MJW:tat
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100